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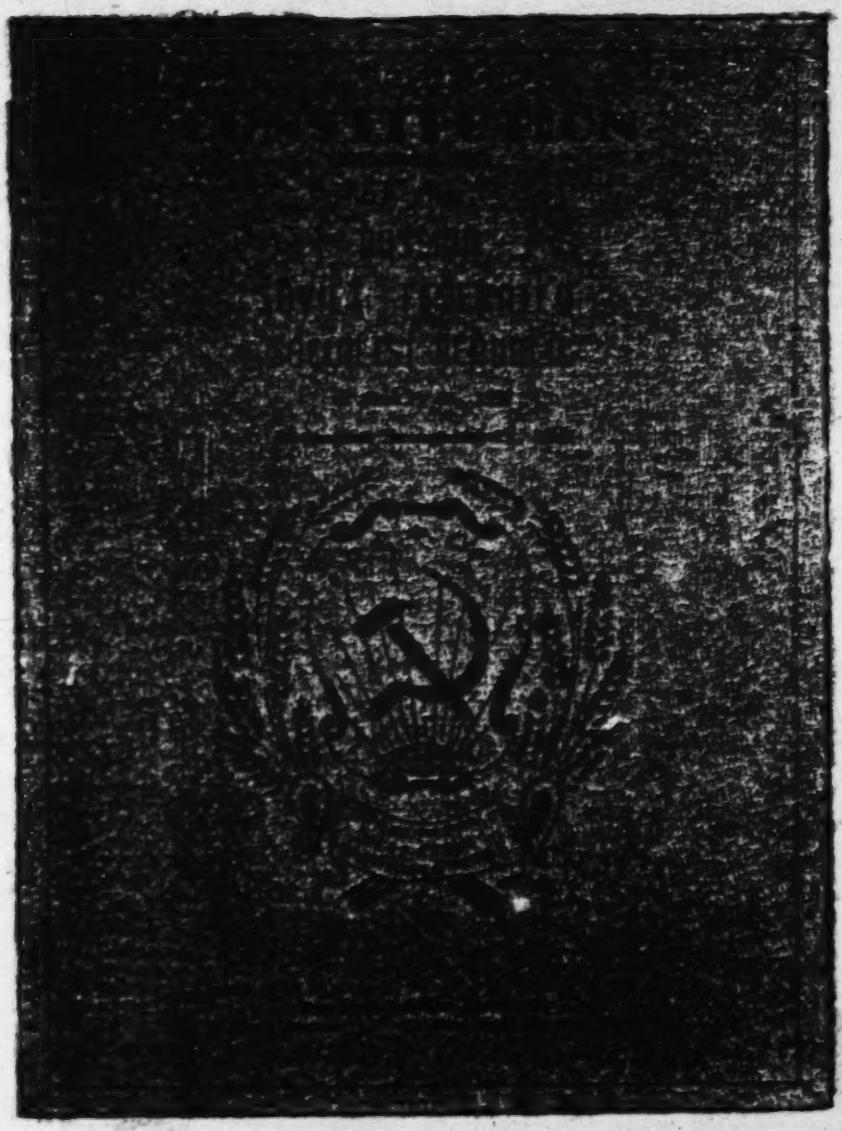

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C O N S T I T U T I O N

(Fundamental Law)

of the

RUSSIAN

SOVIET FEDERATED

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

of January 21, 1937

As amended through May 27, 1949

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C O N S T I T U T I O N

(Fundamental Law)

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As amended through May 27, 1949

Chapter I. The Social Structure

642 Art. 1. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic is a socialist State of workers and peasants.

Art. 2. The political foundation of the Russian SFSR is the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, which grew and became strong as a result of the overthrow of the power of the landlords and capitalists and the conquest of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Art. 3. In the Russian SFSR all power belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

471 Art. 4. The economic foundation of the Russian SFSR is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the means and instruments of production established as the result of the liquidation of the capitalist system of economy, the abolition of private ownership of the means and instruments of production and the elimination of the exploitation of man by man.

421 Art. 5. Socialist property in the Russian SFSR exists either in the form of State property (the possession of the whole people), or in the form of co-operative and collective farm property (the possession of collective farms or co-operative associations).

[779] Art. 6. The land, its natural deposits, waters, forests, mills, factories, mines, rail, water and air transport, banks, communications, large state-organized agricultural enterprises (State farms, machine and tractor stations and the like), as well as municipal enterprises and the bulk of dwelling houses in the cities and industrial localities, are state property, that is belong to the whole people.

421 474 Art. 7. The common enterprises of collective farms and co-operative organizations with their livestock and implements, and the products of the collective farms and co-operative organizations, as well as their common buildings, constitute the common socialist property of collective farms and co-operative organizations.

In addition to its basic income from the common collective farm enterprise, [872] every household in a collective farm has for its personal use a small plot of household land and, as its personal property, a subsidiary husbandry on the plot, a dwelling house, livestock, poultry and minor agricultural implements — in accordance with the regulations of the agricultural artel.

[423] Art. 8. The land occupied by collective farms is secured to them free of charge and for an unlimited time, that is, in perpetuity.

471 Art. 9. Alongside the socialist system of economy in the Russian SFSR the law permits the private economy of individual peasants and artisans based on their own work and precluding the exploitation of the labour of others.

421 Art. 10. The right of citizens to personal ownership of their incomes from work and of their savings, of their dwelling houses and subsidiary household economy, their household furniture and utensils, articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of inheritance of personal property of citizens, is protected by law.

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185 471 Art. 11. The economic life of the Russian SFSR is determined and directed by the State National-Economic Plan with the aim of increasing the public wealth, of steadily improving the material and cultural level of the working people and of consolidating the socialist independence of the country and strengthening its defensive capacity.

461 Art. 12. In the Russian SFSR work is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat."

The principle applied in the Russian SFSR is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

Chapter II. The State Structure

642 Art. 13. For the purpose of mutual assistance among the Union Republics along economic and political lines, as well as along the line of defence, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic voluntarily united with the other equal Soviet Socialist Republics, namely:

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic and
The Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

in a federal state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Proceeding from the aforesaid, the Russian SFSR ensures to the USSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, the rights defined in Article 14 of the Constitution of the USSR.

Outside of the spheres set forth in Article 14 of the Constitution of the USSR, the Russian SFSR exercises state authority independently, retaining its sovereign rights in full.

631 Art. 14. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic consists of the Altai, Krasnodar, Krasnoiarsk, Maritime, Stavropol and Khabarovsk Territories; the Archangel, Astrakhan, Briansk, Velikie Luki, Vladimir, Vologda, Voronezh, Gorky, Grozny, Ivanovo, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad, Kalinin, Kaluga, Kemerovo, Kirov, Kostroma, Crimean, Kuibyshev, Kurgan, Kursk, Leningrad, Molotov, Moscow, Murmansk, Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orel, Penza, Pskov, Rostov, Riazan, Saratov, Sakhalin, Sverdlovsk, Smolensk, Stalingrad, Tambov, Tomsk, Tula, Tiumen, Ulianovsk, Cheliabinsk, Chita, Chkalov, Yaroslav and Amur Regions; the Tatar, Bashkir, Dagestan, Buriat-Mongolian, Kabardinian, Komi, Mari, Mordovian, North Ossetian, Udmurt, Chuvash and Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics; and the Adygei, Jewish, Oirot, Tuvinian, Khakass and Cherkess Autonomous Regions.

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642 Art. 15. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Russian SFSR may not be altered without its consent.

[701] Art. 16a. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic has its own Republican military formations.

[644] Art. 16b. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

[671] Art. 17. The laws of the USSR are binding within the territory of the Russian SFSR.

840 Art. 18. Every citizen of the Russian SFSR is a citizen of the USSR.

Citizens of all other Union Republics enjoy on the territory of the Russian SFSR equal rights with citizens of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 19. The jurisdiction of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, embraces:

a) Adoption of the Constitution of the Russian SFSR and control over its observance;

b) Confirmation of the Constitutions of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics;

c) Submission of the formation of new territories and regions and also of new Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Regions to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for confirmation.

d) Establishment of boundaries, and of the division into districts, of Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and of Autonomous Regions;

e) Establishment of the boundaries, and of the division into districts, of regions and territories;

f) Legislation of the Russian SFSR;

g) Maintenance of public order and safeguarding the rights of citizens;

h) Approval of the national-economic plan of the Russian SFSR;

i) Approval of the state budget of the Russian SFSR and of the report on its fulfilment;

j) Determination of state and local taxes, imposts and non-tax revenues in conformity with the laws of the USSR;

k) Direction of the fulfilment of budgets of Autonomous Republics and of local budgets of territories and regions;

l) Direction of insurance and savings;

m) Administration of the banks, industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and organisations subordinate to the Republic, as well as direction of local industry;

n) Control and superintendence of the condition and administration of enterprises subordinate to the Union;

o) Establishment of the procedure governing the use of land, mineral wealth, forests and waters;

p) Direction of dwelling houses and the municipal economy, dwelling house construction and the modernization of cities and other inhabited places; road building; direction of local transport and communications;

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q) Labour legislation;
r) Legislation concerning marriage and the family;
s) Direction of public health;
t) Direction of social maintenance;
u) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;
v) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of the Russian SFSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;
w) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;
x) Organization of the judicial organs of the Russian SFSR;
y) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Russian SFSR;
z) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Russian SFSR;
aa) Establishment of the representation of the Russian SFSR in international relations;
bb) Organization of the military formations of the Russian SFSR.

635 Art. 20. Every Autonomous Republic has its Constitution which takes into account its peculiar features and is constructed in full agreement with the Constitutions of the Russian SFSR and of the USSR.

Art. 21. The laws of the Russian SFSR have the same force within the territory of every Autonomous Republic. In the event of discrepancy between the law of the Autonomous Republic and a law of the Russian SFSR, the law of the Russian SFSR prevails.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

646 Art. 22. The highest organ of state power in the Russian SFSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

[642] Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR exercises all rights vested in the Russian SFSR in accordance with Articles 13 and 19 of the Constitution of the Russian SFSR, insofar as they do not, by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Russian SFSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR, and the Ministries of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 24. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is the sole legislative organ of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 25. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Russian SFSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 150,000 of the population.

Art. 26. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR by a simple majority vote.

Art. 27. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR are published over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 28. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and eight Vice-Chairmen.

1 [Cf. pp. 2, 3-4--Analyst]

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646 Art. 29. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

[643] Art. 30. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 31. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, twelve Vice-Presidents, according to the number of the Autonomous Republics, the Secretary of the Presidium and 13 Members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 32. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR for all its activities.

Art. 33. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR;
b) Issues decrees;
c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Russian SFSR;
d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);
e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the [645] Russian SFSR, the Councils of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics, the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of territories and regions and the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions, if they do not conform to the law;
f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Russian SFSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR;
g) Institutes titles of honour of the Russian SFSR;
h) Confers titles of honour of the Russian SFSR;
i) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Russian SFSR;
j) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Russian SFSR to foreign states;
k) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

Art. 34. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 35. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

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646 Art. 36. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

64[illegible] Art. 37. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
64[illegible] the Russian SFSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR orders
[64[illegible]] new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 38. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR shall have formed a new presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 39. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is convened by the outgoing Presidum of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR not later than three months after the elections.

645 Art. 40. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR appoints the Government of
[645] the Russian SFSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

Art. 41. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Russian SFSR is the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 42. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Russian SFSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 44. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR are binding throughout the territory of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries of the Russian SFSR and of other institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and verifies the work of the authorized representatives of the all-Union Ministries;

b) Adopts measures to carry out the national-economic plan;

c) Adopts measures to fulfil the state and local budgets of the Russian SFSR;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Councils of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics, directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

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f) Sets up, whenever necessary, special Committees and Central Administrations under the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR for economic and cultural affairs;

g) Exercises guidance in the sphere of the relations of the Russian SFSR with foreign states, on the basis of the general procedure established by the USSR governing the relations of Union Republics with foreign states;

h) Directs the organization of the military formations of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 46. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR has the right to annul decisions and orders of Executive Committees of regional and territorial Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of Executive Committees of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions as well as to suspend decisions and orders of Councils of Ministers of Autonomous Republics, decisions and orders of regional and territorial Soviets of Working People's Deputies and Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions.

The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR has the right to annual orders and instructions of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 47. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR and consists of:

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR;
The Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR;
The Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Russian SFSR;
The Ministers of the Russian SFSR;
The Chief of the Arts Administration;
The Chairman of the Committee on Cultural and Educational Institutions.

Art. 48. The Government of the Russian SFSR or a Minister of the Russian SFSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR within a period not exceeding three days.

Art. 49. The Ministers of the Russian SFSR direct the branches of state administration which come within the jurisdiction of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 50. The ministers of the Russian SFSR, within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws of the USSR and the Russian SFSR, of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR and of the orders and instructions of the Union-Republican Ministries of the USSR, and verify their execution.

Art. 51. The Ministries of the Russian SFSR are either Union-Republican or Republican.

Art. 52. Each Union-Republican Ministry of the Russian SFSR directs the branch of state administration of the Russian SFSR entrusted to it, with the exception of only a limited number of enterprises, according to a list confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

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[145] Art. 53. Each Republican Ministry of the Russian SFSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

[642] Art. 54. The following Ministries of the Russian SFSR are Union-Republican Ministries of the Russian SFSR:

The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of State Control
The Ministry of State Security
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of the Armed Forces
The Ministry of Cinematography
The Ministry of Light Industry
The Ministry of Forestry
The Ministry of the Timber and Paper Industry
The Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry
The Ministry of the Building Materials Industry
The Ministry of Public Health
The Ministry of the Fish Industry
The Ministry of the Food Industry
The Ministry of State Farms
The Ministry of Agriculture
The Ministry of Trade
The Ministry of Finances
The Ministry of Justice.

Art. 55. The following Ministries of the Russian SFSR are Republican Ministries:

The Ministry of the Housing Construction Industry
The Ministry of Motor Transport
The Ministry of the Municipal Economy
The Ministry of Local Industry
The Ministry of the Local Fuel Industry
The Ministry of Education
The Ministry of Social Maintenance.

Chapter V. The Higher Organs of State Power of Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics

[635] Art. 56. The highest organ of state power in an Autonomous Republic is the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

Art. 57. The Supreme Soviet of an Autonomous Republic is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Republic on the basis prescribed by the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic.

Art. 58. The Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic is the sole legislative organ of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 59. The Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic:

a) adopts the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic and proposes it to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR for confirmation;

b) determines the division of the Autonomous Republic into districts and the boundaries of districts and towns and proposes them to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR for confirmation;

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c) approves the national-economic plan and the budget of the Autonomous Republic.
d) Confers titles of honour of the Autonomous Republic.

Art. 60. The Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous SSR consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous SSR, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 61. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 62. The powers of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic are determined by the Constitution of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 63. The Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic elects a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to conduct its sessions.

Art. 64. The Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic appoints the Government of the Autonomous Republic, namely the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous SSR.

Chapter VI. The Organs of State Administration of the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 65. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Autonomous SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 66. The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous SSR, or, in the intervals between the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic.

Art. 67. The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws of the USSR, the Russian SFSR and the Autonomous Republic, and of the decisions and orders of the Councils of Ministers of the USSR and the Russian SFSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 68. The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic has the right to annul orders and instructions of Ministers of the Autonomous SSR, decisions and orders of Executive Committees of area, city and district Soviets of Working People's Deputies within the territory of the Autonomous SSR and likewise to suspend the decisions and orders of area, city and district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 69. The Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic and consists of:

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic;
The Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers;
The Chairman of the State Planning Commission;
The Ministers employed
The Minister of Internal Affairs
The Minister of State Security
The Minister of Public Health
The Minister of The Municipal Economy

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The Minister of Local Industry
The Minister of the Food Industry
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Agriculture
The Minister of Trade
The Minister of Finance
The Minister of Justice;

The Heads of:
The Motor Transport Administration
The Roads Administration
The Cinematography Administration
The Local Fuel Industry Administration
The Building Materials Industry Administration
The Arts Administration
The Cultural and Educational Institutions Administration

and, also, in accordance with the peculiar features of the economy of the Republic and subject to confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR the following Ministers:

The Minister of Light Industry
The Minister of Forestry
The Minister of the Timber and Paper Industry
The Minister of the Meat and Dairy Industry
The Minister of the Fish Industry.

Art. 70. The Ministers of the Autonomous Republic direct the branches of state administration which come within the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Republic, in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian SFSR and the Constitution of the Autonomous SSR.

Art. 71. The Ministers of the Autonomous Republic within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws of the USSR, the Russian SFSR and the Autonomous SSR, decisions and orders of the Councils of Ministers of the USSR, the Russian SFSR and the Autonomous SSR, and orders and instructions of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 72. The Ministries of the Autonomous Republic direct the branches of state administration entrusted to them and are subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous SSR and to the corresponding Ministries of the Russian SFSR.

Chapter VII. The Organs of State Power of Autonomous Regions

Art. 73. The Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region is the organ of state power of the Autonomous Region.

Art. 74. The Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region is elected by the citizens of the Autonomous Region for a term of two years on the basis determined by the Constitution of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 75. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region is the Executive Committee elected by it.

Art. 76. The Soviet of Working People's Deputies of each Autonomous Region presents to the Supreme Soviet, for confirmation, a "Statute of the Autonomous Region", which takes into account the national peculiarities of the Autonomous Region.

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Chapter VIII. The Local Organs of State Power

631 Art. 77. The organs of state power in territories, regions, autonomous regions, national areas, administrative areas, districts, cities, settlements and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets, auls) are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 78. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of territories, regions, national and administrative areas, districts, cities, districts in big cities, settlements and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets and auls) are elected by the working people of the respective territories, regions, national areas, administrative areas, districts, cities, settlements and rural localities for a term of two years.

Art. 79. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of territories, regions, areas, districts, cities, settlements and villages direct cultural, political and economic affairs within their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 80. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR, of the Russian SFSR and of the Autonomous Republic.

Art. 81. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a territory, region, national and administrative area, district, city, settlement or village is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and members.

[623] Art. 82. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies (of stanitsas, hamlets and auls) in a small locality is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 83. The Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a territory, region, area, district, city, settlement or village exercises guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within its territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviet of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 84. Sessions of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

Art. 85. Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of administrative areas are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than six times a year.

[623] Art. 86. Sessions of city and village Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their executive organs not less than once a month.

Art. 87. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of territories, regions, national and administrative areas, districts and cities, each elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the duration of their sessions to conduct the sittings of the sessions.

[623] Art. 88. The Chairman of a village Soviet convenes the Soviet and conducts its sittings.

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631 Art. 89. The executive organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are directly accountable both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies which elected them and to the executive organs of the respective superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 90. The superior Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Executive Committees and to suspend decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 91. The superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of their Executive Committees.

634 Art. 92. The territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments and Administrations of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Roads
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Local Industry
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Arts
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance

and the following Administrations:

- a Motor Transport Administration
- a Cinematographic Administration
- the Local Fuel Industry Administration
- the Building Materials Industry Administration
- an Agricultural Administration
- a Planning Commission;
- a Cadres Sector under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the territory, and region, the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments or Administrations subject to confirmation by the Union-Republican Ministries of Light Industry, Forestry, the Timber and Paper Industry, the Meat and Dairy Industry, the Food Industry and the Fish Industry:

- a Department of Light Industry
- a Department of Forestry
- a Department of the Timber and Paper Industry
- a Department of the Meat and Dairy Industry
- a Department of the Food Industry
- a Department of the Fish Industry.

Art. 93. The all-Union Ministries, The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Justice of the Union set up their own Administrations under the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, in accordance with the conditions of the territory and region and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and the Russian SFSR.

Art. 94. The Departments and Administrations of the Executive Committees of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the corresponding territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Russian SFSR.

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631 Art. 95. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of administrative districts and their Executive Committees set up Departments and conduct their work on the basis of laws and decrees of supreme organs of the Russian SFSR and the decisions of territorial and regional Working People's Deputies.

632 Art. 96. The district Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Roads
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Agriculture
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the district, the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments, subject to confirmation by the respective regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies:

- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Local Industry.

633 Art. 97. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of State Security set up their Departments under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district, on the basis of the laws of the USSR and the Russian SFSR and subject to confirmation by the corresponding regional Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 98. The Departments of the Executive Committees of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

633 Art. 99. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its municipal and suburban economy:

- a Department of Local Industry and
- a Department of Agriculture.

5: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RF1 Great Russia RF1

[Constitution as of 1949]

633 Art. 100. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies or directly to the corresponding Departments of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 101. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Moscow and Leningrad are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Moscow and Leningrad and their Executive Committees as well as to the corresponding Ministry of the Russian SFSR directly.

634 Art. 102. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of National Areas and their Executive Committees exercise in the territory of their Areas the rights and duties conferred on them by the "Statute of National Areas" and likewise by the decisions of the corresponding territorial or regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

"The Statute of National Areas" is established by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Chapter IX. The Budget of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

652 Art. 103. The state budget of the Russian SFSR is drawn up by the Council
646 of Ministers of the Russian SFSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR for its approval.

Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR the state budget of the Russian SFSR is published for general information.

Art. 104. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Russian SFSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 105. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Russian SFSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR and published for general information.

652 Art. 106. The budgets of Autonomous Republics, and the local budgets of
631 territories, regions, Autonomous Regions, National and Administrative Areas, district, city and village Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territories and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and of the Russian SFSR.

Chapter X. The Courts and the Procurator's Office.

692 Art. 107. In the Russian SFSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Russian SFSR, the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, Territorial and Regional Courts, the Courts of the Autonomous Regions, the Courts of National Areas, the Courts of Administrative Areas, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Court of the USSR and the People's Courts.

693 Art. 108. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

[Constitution as of 1949]

692 Art. 109. The Supreme Court of the Russian SFSR is the highest judicial organ of the Russian SFSR. The Supreme Court of the Russian SFSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Russian SFSR, the Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Regions.

Art. 110. The Supreme Court of the Russian SFSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR for a term of five years.

Art. 111. The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics are elected by the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics for a term of five years.

Art. 112. Territorial and Regional Courts, the Courts of Autonomous Regions, the Courts of National [illegible] and administrative Areas are elected by the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions and by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of National and administrative Areas for a term of five years.

Art. 113. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the districts on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 [693] Art. 114. Judicial proceedings in the Russian SFSR are conducted in the Russian language or in the language of the Autonomous Republic, the Autonomous Region or the National Area, persons not knowing the language being guaranteed every opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 115. In all courts of the Russian SFSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to be defended by counsel.

693 Art. 116. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 117. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of the law by all Ministries and institutions subordinate to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Russian SFSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 118. The Procurator of the Russian SFSR and the regional procurators are appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 119. Procurators of territories and regions, of Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Regions are appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 120. Procurators of National and administrative Areas, districts and cities are appointed by the Procurator of the Russian SFSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 121. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

[Constitution as of 1949]

Chapter XI. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

641 Art. 122. Citizens of the Russian SFSR have the right to work, that is, are guaranteed the right to employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 123. Citizens of the Russian SFSR have the right to rest and leisure.

[466] The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the fixing of the working day for factory and office workers at eight hours and the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in workshops where conditions of work are exceptionally arduous; by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers; and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest-homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

[857] Art. 124. Citizens of the Russian SFSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at State expense, free medical service for the working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

[871] Art. 125. Citizens of the Russian SFSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for students of higher educational establishments who excel in their studies; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language; and by the organization in the factories, State farms and machine and tractor stations and collective farms of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[862] Art. 126. Women in the Russian SFSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured to women by granting them an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education and by State protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[863] Art. 127. Equality of rights of citizens of the Russian SFSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life, is an indefeasible law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or conversely, any establishment of direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality and also any propagation of racial or national exclusiveness, hatred and contempt - are punishable by law.

[Constitution as of 1949]

641 Art. 128. In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church
655 in the Russian SFSR is separated from the state and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens.

Art. 129. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Russian SFSR are guaranteed by law:

(a) Freedom of speech;
(b) Freedom of the press;
(c) Freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
(d) Freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

[675] Art. 130. In conformity with the interests of the working people and in order to develop the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Russian SFSR are ensured the right to unite in public organizations -- trade unions, co-operative associations, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and State.

[694] Art. 131. Citizens of the Russian SFSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 132. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 133. The Russian SFSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for their scientific activities, or for their struggle for national liberation.

Art. 134. It is the duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR to abide by the Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

[695] Art. 135. It is the duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR to safeguard
[421] and strengthen public socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 136. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the ranks of the armed forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Russian SFSR.

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641 [681] Art. 137. To defend the fatherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR. Treason to the country -- violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the State, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law and is the most heinous of crime.

Chapter XII. The Electoral System

66 Art. 138. Elections of deputies to all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, Supreme Soviets of Autonomous Republics, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of National and administrative Areas, districts, cities and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets and auls) are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 139. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Russian SFSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

[641] Every citizen of the Russian SFSR who has reached the age of 21, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities may be elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 140. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[92] Art. 141. Women have the right to elect and to be elected on equal terms with men.

[641] Art. 142. Citizens serving in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 143. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies from the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of villages and cities to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

Art. 144. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 145. Elections to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Russian SFSR are held by election districts on the following ~~basis~~

in elections to territorial and regional Soviets - one deputy for every 1,500 to 60,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the territory or region;

in elections to the regional Soviets of Autonomous Regions - one deputy for every 1,500 to 3,500 of its population, depending upon the size of the Autonomous Region;

in elections to ~~Area~~ Soviets of National Areas - one deputy for every 300 to 5,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the National Area;

in elections to area Soviets of administrative areas - one deputy for every 500 to 10,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the administrative area;

666 in elections to district Soviets - one deputy for every 1,000 of its population; a district with a population below 25,000 elects 25 deputies; a district with a population above 60,000 elects no more than 60 deputies;

In elections to city Soviets or city district Soviets - one deputy for every 350 to 1,000 of the population depending upon the size of the city; in a city or city district whose population does not exceed 12,000 35 deputies are elected;

in elections to the city Soviets of Moscow and Leningrad - one deputy for every 3,000 of their population;

elections to village and settlement Soviets - one deputy for every 100 of the population; rural localities (stanitsas, hamlets, auls) and settlements with a population below 1,000 elect 9 deputies; those whose population exceeds 2,500 - no more than 25 deputies.

The basis of representation for each Soviet of Working People's Deputies of territory, region, Autonomous Region, National and administrative Area, district, city, village and settlement is fixed in the Ordinance concerning Elections to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Territories, Regions, Areas, Districts, Cities, Villages and Settlements of the Russian SFSR within the range of the bases of representation indicated in the present article.

Art. 146. Candidates for elections are nominated according to electoral districts.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 147. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he is liable to be recalled at any time upon decision of the majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Chapter XIII. Arms, Flag, Capital

186 Art. 148. The arms of the Russian SFSR are a sickle and hammer of gold placed crosswise, handles down, against a red background in the rays of the sun and surrounded by ears of grain, with the inscriptions "RSFSR" and "Workers of All Countries, Unite!"

Art. 149. The state flag of the Russian SFSR is of red cloth with a gold sickle and hammer and the gold letters "RSFSR" placed in the upper corner near the staff.

Art. 150. The capital of the Russian SFSR is the city of Moscow.

Chapter XIV. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 151. The Constitution of the Russian SFSR may be amended only by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

000 This translation was made from a Russian text, with amendments through March 13, 1948, published by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR in 1948. Additional amendments were incorporated from texts published in Izvestia through May 27, 1949.

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[For the complete text of the Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic of January 21, 1937, as amended through May 27, 1949, see category 116, entire source.]